

Tradition states that John Kunz III once won a spelling bee in the Bear Lake Valley and expressed his profound embarrassment because of that occasion which had called considerable attention to himself. In that same spirit I submit the results of an interview I had in Spiez on Thursday, October 5, 1978, the day after the family flew to the States. Arnold Kunz made the appointment that morning for the interview and Mrs. Maurer expressed to him then and to me in the late afternoon her disappointment at not having been notified about the various high points of the family's visit in the Diemtig Canyon and thereby having missed the opportunity to report on them "live" rather than tardily by proxy.

PAN

T r a n s l a t i o n of an article published in the Berner Oberlaender, Thursday, October 12, 1978, Spiez (Canton Bern), Switzerland (page 3):

A B e l l i n R e m e m b r a n c e

35 Americans from Bern (Idaho) visited relatives in Diemtig Canyon

Blood is Thicker than Water

One hundred and eight years ago Johannes Kunz-Knutti, a native of Diemtig Canyon, moved with his wife and eight children across the Great Waters. He settled in the state of Idaho, operated a cheese dairy, and along with the other Kunz's who followed him -- mother, sisters, son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren -- founded the village of "Bern," a Mormon settlement consisting of 150 souls. Now one of the great-great-grandsons of Johannes Kunz, the original emigrant, lives in Interlaken, Paul N. His mother was a Kunz, his father, a Dane. Furthermore, after 6 1/2 years in Switzerland, Paul speaks a nearly accent-free Bernese dialect. He is studying at the University of Bern: Swiss History (!), and as the subject of his dissertation he has chosen the "history of Swiss emigration." Thereby the circle which was started in 1870 with the "Spring" of the Diemtiger across the ocean is closed in a most meaningful manner.

Paul has built a personal, good contact with his relatives in Lientig Canyon. Inasmuch as his hobby is family history, he recently made a family tree of the Kunz clan, whose roots are in the Diemtig Canyon and whose branches reach throughout Switzerland and even into far away America. It is hanging in Oey in the "Hirschen," which is also operated by a Kunz.

Uncle George from Idaho

George Kunz-Bills came to Switzerland last year with a small group of relatives. The Diemtig Canyon pleased him very much, and he met -- arranged by Paul -- with 52 of his Swiss relatives in Oey. The contact was so pleasant that he decided to return this fall with a larger group. Paul N arranged an interesting program of excursions for his relatives, including a visit to the old home of the father of Johannes Kunz-Knutti, Johannes Kunz-Klossner (1803-1871), in Maeniggrund. The very unpretentious and hard-labor filled daily life of the alpine farmer relatives made a tremendous impression upon the thoroughly "technical-ized" Americans. The high point of the encounter between the two groups of relatives was a big

"Family Reunion" in the Muegg Mountain Lodge,

to which Paul had invited all Kunz descendants. The boldest expectations were surpassed: 170 persons met there together; immediately developed a good contact